

Risk Factors for Death from Asthma

History of Severe Exacerbations

- Past history of sudden severe exacerbations of asthma
 - Prior intubations for asthma
 - Prior admission to the intensive care unit for asthma
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Asthma Hospitalizations and Emergency Visits

- Two or more hospitalizations for asthma in the past year
 - Three or more emergency care visits for asthma in the past year
 - Hospitalization or emergency visit for asthma in the past month
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Beta₂-agonist and Oral Steroid Usage

- Use of more than two canisters per month of inhaled short-acting beta₂-agonist (quick-relief inhalers)
 - Current use of oral steroids or recent withdrawal from oral corticosteroids
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Complicating Health Problems

- Comorbidity, as from cardiovascular diseases or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - Serious psychiatric disease, including depression, or psychosocial problems
 - Illicit drug use
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Other Factors

- Poor perception of airflow obstruction or its severity
- Low socioeconomic status and urban residence
- Sensitivity to *Alternaria* (an outdoor mold)

Adapted from the Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma,
National Asthma Education and Prevention Program, National Institutes of Health, 1997